

Boracay - Etymology

Isla de Boracay, Malay, Aclan

Tuesday, July 08, 1980

The origin of this tropical resort's name captures some interest.

Excerpt:

The name "Boracay" was first given to a very tiny island off the northern tip of the "Isla" by a native tuba gatherer called “mananggette” upon hearing the private conversation of a couple residing in the island, now known to be the Father and Greener of the island of Boracay - Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol and Sofia Ner Gonzales.

History:

Many would say that Boracay was derived from the word borac, a local term which means cotton. Either cotton used to grow in this island in large quantities, or its powdery white sands had something to do with it.

Another is that the name dates back to the time when ***Spaniards*** came ashore and picked up shells. Meeting with the Atis later, the Spaniards were told that Sigay is the name of those shells. When the Spaniards ask the Atis were planting, they were told boray, a certain vegetable seed. From boray and sigay came the name Boracay.

Other accounts would say that Boracay was from the native term boay meaning vegetable seeds. It was said that **Aeta tribes** (Aboriginals said to originate from ***Borneo*** and after years of travelling, decided to settle in the island now known as Boracay) in the past used to plant vegetables within the island.

Some would also claim that the island was named in part from the word sigay, a type of seashell (could this be the rare puka shell?)

Finally, documented origin would reveal that Boracay originated from the word bora or bubbles. It is because of the foamy appearance that the waves make when it softly crashes onto the whitish sands. No less than the natives themselves said that as far in time as their memory as one of the original settlers and natives of Malay and Buruanga, the island which is now known as "Boracay" had no name before until a couple blurted out of their personal conversation about the froath and foam of the oceans of boracay. Malay was a part of Buruang or was only a barrio or barangay of the municipality of Buruanga, and people merely called the place "Ro Isla it Buruanga". The name "Boracay" was first given to a very tiny island off the northern tip of the "Isla" by a native upon hearing conversation between a couple, now known to be the Father and Greener of the island of Boracay - Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol and Sofia Ner Gonzales.

Folks have it told that many years ago, the couple came to settle at the northern coast of the "Isla" now known as Yapak, as Yapak was a barrio discovered by Lamberto himself, to engage in planting and selling tobacco leaves as their means of livelihood.

A mananggete (tuba-gatherer) was approaching the couple when he overheard a conversation between the couple at their dwelling. Lamberto was at the beach or in the beach water as he observed thick froath being washed ashore by the waves that clased between the tiny island and the "Isla" agitated by the Amihan wind.

Observing this thick froath, he called out to Sofia and said "Acay, hanggod ka bora, Acay," which when translated can mean: "Darling, there's plenty of froath, Darling."

Perhaps this is the origin of Boracay, derived from "Bora. Acay". And that name stuck for the tiny island. Much later, the name was given to the bigger island instead of calling it "Ro Isla it Buruanga."

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Descendants of Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol & Sofia Ner Gonzales:

Lamberto: Son of Solomon Diangson Tirol and Vivencia Isturiz Hontiveros

Sofia: Daughter of Dr. Cipriano Gomez Gonzales and Florentina Quijano Ner

- *Elsie Edna Tirol (m. Ramon Escalona Kimpo)*
- *Rizalina Tirol (m. Graciano Rojo)*
- *Araceli Tirol (m. Jaime Marte)*
- *Sol Tirol (m. Bernardo Carpio)*
- *Josel "Jose" G. Tirol (m. Lolita Denosta)*
- *Belen Gonzales Tirol+*

- *Demosthenes G. Tirol (m. Sylvia Gonzales)*
- *Florentina Gonzales Tirol+*
- *Haide Tirol (m. Jose Solidum), herself, the youngest*

Direct and Only Descendants of Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol and Sofia Ner Gonzales
and their respective titled property holdings in the island of Boracay, Philippines

Araceli Gonzales Tirol m. Jaime Marte

(The Boracay Island titled property holdings: Part of Lapus-lapus)

Divina Tirol Marte m. Tomas Villanueva
 Hector Tirol Marte
 Mia Tirol Marte
 Percival Tirol Marte
 Vilma Tirol Marte

Belen Gonzales Tirol (+)

Demosthenes Gonzales Tirol m. Sylvia Gonzales

(The Boracay Island titled property holdings: Punta- Bunga and part of Ilig-iligan)

Dem Gonzales Tirol
 Leo Neil Gonzales Tirol

Elsie Edna Gonzales Tirol m. Ramon Escalona Kimpo

(The Boracay Island titled property holdings: Candington and part of Hambaloron)

Amelita Tirol Kimpo

Barbara Kimpo m. Ricardo Villanueva

John Gerald Villanueva

Kristine Barbara Villanueva

Richard Walter Villanueva

Juan Ramon Tirol Kimpo m. Haydee Villabert

Irene Christine Kimpo

John Ryan Kimpo

Mary Ann Tirol Kimpo m. Ali Al- Sheri

Philip Tirol Kimpo

John Philip Kimpo

Ramon Juan Kimpo Jr. m. Ruth Razon

Rhea Kimpo

Ruel Kimpo

Thelma Tirol Kimpo m. Benjamin Panganiban

Benjamin Panganiban

Concepcion Panganiban

Josephine Rowena Panganiban

Juliano Panganiban

Marius Panganiban

Ramon Panganiban

Florentina Tirol (+)

Haide Gonzales Tirol m. Jose Solidum

(The Boracay Island titled property holdings: Bil-at and part of Yapac)

Alexis Tirol Solidum m. Ethel Apolonio
Andrew James Apolonio Solidum
Candy Apolonio Solidum
Sarah Apolonio Solidum
Haidea Tirol Solidum
Jose Tirol Solidum Jr.
Lourdes Tirol Solidum
Ma. Sophia Tirol Solidum
Presberto Tirol Solidum
Rosette Tirol Solidum m. Tony Aster

Josel “Jose” Gonzales Tirol Sr. m. Lolita Amoroso Denosta

(The Boracay Island titled property holdings: Bat Cave, part of Yapak, Puka, Ilig-iligan)

Gabalmel Denosta Tirol m. Meredith Talamisan
David King Tirol
Elixer Talamisan Tirol
Ghamie Talamisan Tirol
Rowena Talamisan Tirol
Sofia Augie Talamisan Tirol
Jessica Denosta (Tirol) Andan m. Virgilio Andan
Maria Iodine Tirol Andan
James Kenneth Tirol Andan
Jocelyn Denosta Tirol m. Prospero Dignos
Kurt Dignos
Peachy Anne Tirol Dignos

Pocholo James Tirol Dignos
Prospero Tirol Dignos III

Josel Denosta Tirol Jr.
Roberto Denosta Tirol m. Angelina De Martin
Angelica de Martin Tirol
Devora Kaye de Martin Tirol
Rachelle Anne Tirol
Robert Den Tirol
Robert Von Tirol

Rizalina Gonzales Tirol m. Graciano Rojo

(The Boracay Island titled property holdings: Part of Candington and part of Lapus-lapus)

Arthur Tirol Rojo
Orfeo Tirol Rojo
Teresita Tirol Rojo

Sol Gonzales Tirol m. Bernardo Carpio

(The Boracay Island titled property holdings: Hambaluron, Santoyo and part of Yapak)

Antonio Tirol Carpio m. Ruth Nguyen
Audrey Nguyen Carpio
Ronald Nguyen Carpio
Carissa Tirol Carpio m. Bernardo Dimacali
Priscilla Grace Dimacali
Victoria Grace Dimacali

Dennis Tirol Carpio m. Martha Ford
David Carpio

Philip Carpio
Florita Tirol Carpio
Judy Ann Tirol Carpio m. Edmundo Prantilla
 Florence Prantilla
 Joseph Prantilla
 Paul Prantilla
Solomon Tirol Carpio m. Cynthia Brinas
 Adrian Carpio
 Mon Amado Carpio
 Monique Carpio
Susan Tirol Carpio m. Norbert Frey
 Michelle Frey

(+) *died during infancy*

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The Woman Behind The Greening of Boracay

Nick I. Marte

The Sunday Times Magazine

November 8, 1987

The Woman Behind the Greening of Boracay

By NICK L. MARTE

Sofia Gonzales-Tirol and her husband, Lamberto, transformed Boracay from primeval wilderness into the exotic isle it is today.



Of all beach resorts in the country, Boracay in Aklan province is considered the best. Its unique assets — crystal clear and gentle waters and smooth sloping sandy bottom — make the quaint resort the biggest swimming pool in the world, popular among backpackers from abroad.

The sound of caressing breezes, moonriver shimmering on moonlit nights, the rejuvenating calm, the blonuish, white sands, and tall swaying coconut palms are natural attractions that draw tourists endlessly.

In an earlier period, Boracay was unlike the romantic hideaway that it is today. The mango-shaped islet was a stark, coral outcrop wreathed with thorn trees and mangroves and

Reprint in a Western Visayas Local Paper and online resource <http://ia600709.us.archive.org/7/items/SomeOldNewsclippingsAboutBoracay/Proftumbokonfiles2008.jpg>

BORACAY ISLAND
HAVEN OF THE HEREDeros DE LAMBERTO HONTIVEROS
TIROL Y SOFIA NER GONZALES


DEDICATION

To our grandparents- Don Lamberto and Doña Sofia- for the legacy you have left us. We shall always treasure your memory in our hearts. May the memory the true blue-blooded Lamber and Sofing Tirol live on and inspire all future children of the clan to follow suit of the legacy love from us all.

By:
Jing Tirol - Andan and the rest of the Hijos de Tirol clan of Akdan, Devao and Marula.

To our greatgrandparents- Thank you for the legacy you have imparted to your descendants for it is Lola Sofia the greener of Boracay together with one ever intelligent Lolo Lamber who inspired us to be what we are now- a birthright which we will all be forever proud of. Thank you Lola Sofing and Lolo Lamber for being the janzfolks' inspiration and finally, above all, for being mine.

By:
Atty. Aia Tirol Andan daughter of Dr. Vinty and Jing Tirol Andan.



The woman behind the greening of Boracay Doña Sofia Ner Gonzales Tirol and her husband Don Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol transformed Boracay from primeval oddflowers into the exotic isle it is today. Being well off and owning a big portion of the island husband and wife team was known to have paved the way and developed Boracay Island now known as Paradise Island.

(Reprinted from the Sunday Times Magazine, November 8/87)
By HICKI. MARTE

Reprinted in the Memorabilia of “Los Herederos de Don Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol y Sofia Ner Gonzales”

The Woman Behind the Greening of Boracay

By NICK L. MARTE

Sofia Gonzales-Tirol and her husband, Lamberto, transformed Boracay from primeval wilderness into the exotic site it is today.

Of all beach resorts in the country, Boracay in Aklan province is considered the best. Its sugar-white crystal clear and gentle waters and steadily sloping sandy beaches — breaks the quiet from the logistic-relaxing pool in the world, posing serious backpackers from abroad.

The sound of sizzling beaches, numerous restaurants on nearby nights, the ever-present calm, the beautiful white sands, and full evening coconut palm are constant attractions that draw tourists daily.

In its early period, Boracay was under the romantic fantasy that it is today. The strange-shaped island was a mark, most visitors associated with their own and imagination and continued by subsequent visitors who returned on its beauty.

It was Lita Soling and her husband, Lamberto Tirol, a civic judge, who “discovered” the island during one summer day in the early 1940s and transformed the forgotten wilderness into a resort site.

The Tirol couple took on a site of ownership even a substantial one. While her husband was away dispensing justice to another town, Lita Soling brought in laborers from the mainland to clear the primeval forest. She then started the greening of Boracay by planting fruit trees, particularly coconuts, on the open land.

The couple continued to clear new coconut groves and reforested their part of the island. A serious community forest. Since her first trip, a track of footpaths had followed Lita Soling's trail on the virgin sands of Boracay. According to 1986 local figures, some 10,000 American tourists from Europe visit Boracay yearly.

Lita Gonzales-Tirol or Lita Soling, as she is fondly called by her, is all of 100 years old this year. She was born on April 1, 1928 in Kalibo, Cebu, child of a Chinese merchant Tagalog mother, Florentina Ner and a Visayan father, Cipriano Gonzales, the first Mayor of Kalibo. Her parents resided briefly in the Santa Cruz district of Manila where she spent a happy childhood. The family later moved to Kalibo to reside there permanently.

Orphaned at an early age, Lita Soling was raised by an older brother, Nicolas, since a Kalibranero brother. He was, by nature, more and dominating. Soling felt oppressed in her brother's home and to escape from his strict care, she decided to marry at age 14 to Lamberto, son of a landed class in Panay. She later has seven children but two died in infancy.

Following her husband's death in the late 1930s, Lita Soling's life took on new vigor owing to the education of her seven surviving children and administering the extensive plantation in Boracay. The dominating figure of her life always dominated the property of coconut dependent is returned to Aklan, and her widowed widows suffered along with the rise and fall of her products.

According to her daughter, Anacleto Tirol-Monte, her mother led a pretty life that spanned these great world events — the Spanish-American War and the First and Second World Wars. Of these historic events, she has some vivid recollections of her life, particularly during the American revolution of Cebu in 1900. When that event ended was broken out, she was a budding teenager.

The recalls unforgettable bits of that historic incident — she was awakened at break of dawn by screaming, sharp explosions coming from American warships firing from the sea and the Spanish Armada was shot at Manila Bay. Her mother was also heard from the sea to Spanish that in return to her as a family prize.

The recall with amazement her first encounter with the American troops who landed a few days later. A York, walking through the forest, exclaimed, “Oh, picturesque-much grapes!” Soldiers started throwing stones to the women (and) and Lita Soling mechanically picked up some.

The arrival of Lita Soling's with shows her that great married power. An aunt died at the age of 110. The older brother, however, passed away at age 91. Old age has inevitably caught up with the woman behind the greening of Boracay.

Now, Lita Soling is living in her days more than before. She spends her evenings in her after more than a century of a busy life.

At present, she stays in the residence of her daughter Anacleto in New Bataan, a Kalibranero suburb.

“My mother has made a lot of sacrifices,” Anacleto said. “Working from childhood and then a widow left to raise seven children.”

Aged 91, but with a mind that has been made back into memory lanes of yesterday. Even as she chews her teeth, her life with the land of time, she knows nothing of tomorrow's events with her memory's ghosts. Recalling, perhaps, the good times of her life in Boracay.



(Clipping from The Philippine Star Magazine, November 8, 1987)

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THE SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 8, 1987

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Of all beach resorts in the country, Boracay in Aklan province is considered the best. Its unique assets — crystal clear and gentle waters and smooth sloping sandy bottom — make the quaint resort the biggest swimming pool in the world, popular among backpackers from abroad. The sound of caressing breezes, moonrivers shimmering on moonlit nights, the rejuvenating calm, the blondish, white sands, and tall swaying coconut palms are natural attractions that draw tourists endlessly. In an earlier period, Boracay was unlike the romantic hideaway that it is today. The mango-shaped islet was a stark, coral outcrop wreathed with thorn trees and mangroves and

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In an earlier period, Boracay was unlike the romantic hideaway that it is today. The mango-shaped islet was a stark, coral outcrop wreathed with thorn trees and mangroves and inhabited by aboriginal Negritos who subsisted on its bounty.

It was Lola Sofing and her husband, Lamberto Tirol, a town judge, who "discovered" the islet during one summer day in the early 1910's and transformed the haunting wilderness into an exotic isle.

The Tirol couple took on a title of ownership over a substantial tract. While her husband was away dispensing justice in another town, Lola Sofing brought in laborers from the mainland to clear the primeval debris. She then started the greening of Boracay by planting fruit trees, particularly coconuts, on the open land.

The cultivation spread as other new comers came and refurbished their part of the islet. A native community formed. Since her first trek, a track of footsteps have followed Lola Sofing's trail on the virginal sands of Boracay. According to 1986 local figures, some 18,000 tourists (mostly foreigners from Europe) were Boracay visitors.

Sofia Gonzales-Tirol or Lola Sofing, as she is fondly called by kin, is all of 108 years old this year. She was born on April 1, 1879 in Salinas, Cavite, child of a Chinese mestiza Tagala mother, Florentina Ner and a Visayan father, Cipriano Gomez-Gonzales, the first Doctor of Kalibo. Her parents resided briefly in the Santa Cruz district of Manila where she spent a happy childhood. The family then moved to Kalibo to reside there permanently.

Orphaned at an early age, Lola Sofing was raised by an elder brother, Nicanor, once a Katipunero leader. He was, by nature, stern and domineering. Sofing felt oppressed in her brother's home and to escape from his strict care, she decided to marry at age 16 to Lamberto, scion of a landed clan in Ithajay. She bore him nine children but two died in infancy.

Following her husband's demise in the late 1930's, Lola Sofing's life took on a new vigor seeing to the education of her seven surviving children and administering the coconut plantation in Boracay. The fluctuating prices of copra has always determined the prosperity of coconut-dependent livelihood in Aklan and her widowed existence shifted along with the rise and fall of her products.

According to her daughter, Araceli Tirol-Marte, her mother led a rocky life that spanned three great world tumults: the Spanish-American War and the First and Second World Wars. Of these historic events, she has some vivid recollections of her life, particularly during the American invasion of Cavite in 1898. When that short-lived war broke out, she was a budding teenager.

She recalls unforgettable bits of that historic incident: she was awakened at break of dawn by reverberating, sharp explosions coming from American warships firing broadsides at the hapless Spanish Armada anchored at Manila Bay. Noisy shelling was also heard from the seaside Spanish fort in what is known as Sangley Point.

She recalls with amusement her first encounter with the American troops who landed a few days later. A Yank, slogging through the street, exclaimed, "Oh, pickaninny-mucho guapita." Soldiers started throwing coins to the curious crowd and Lola Sofing enthusiastically picked up some.

The ancestral family of Lola Sofing is well-known for their great survival power. An aunt died at the ripe age of 115. Her elder brother, Nicanor, passed away at age 91. Old age has inevitably caught up with the woman behind the greening of Boracay.

Now, Lola Sofing is living in her daydreams more than before. She spends her waning days in bed after more than a century of a hectic life.

At present, she stays in the residence of her daughter Araceli in New Buswang, a Kalibo suburb.

"My mother has made a lot of sacrifices," Araceli said, "having been orphaned and then a widow left to raise seven children."

Age-weary, her senile mind now and then wanders back into memory lanes of yesteryears. Even as she closes her eyes, heavy with the load of time, she intones snatches of imagined conversations with her memory's ghosts. Recalling, perhaps, the good times in her life in Boracay.

(Reprinted from The Sunday Times Magazine, November 8, 1987)

Don Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol

Today, we pay our respects to a grand old man whose beautiful traits of character have made himself worth of the love and high regard of those who have had the chance to know him.

He was one of the chosen few who held out their hands to the needy and less fortunate, and yet, was humble at heart. He was unobtrusive in his ways, generous to a fault, tolerant of other people's ways, but strict and exacting with himself. He was a person who firmly believed in self discipline.

Born in a brood of eight (8) children, Don Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol was born to Don Solomon Tirol and Sra. Vicencia Hontiveros, in Tungalang, Aklan. He studied at the San Juan de Letran in Manila and later in his life married Sofia Ner Gonzales, a young and lovely Chinese mestiza from Salinas, Cavite who spoke fluent Spanish. Her father, Cipriano Gomez Gonzales, was a former classmate of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, while studying in the University of Sto. Tomas, and was notably the First Physician-Surgeon of Panay Island, and the First Doctor of Medicine of Kalibo, Aklan.

During their marriage, Lamberto and Sofia were blest with nine children, including two who died during infancy.

Lamberto, as he was ardently called, became the municipal judge (Juez de Paz) of Buruanga, a municipality near Ithajay, and later headed the town of Makato as Mayor (presidente municipal).

Being well-off and owning a big portion of the island, the husband and wife team was known to have paved the way and developed Boracay Island, now known as Paradise Island.

Don Lamberto's life was unmarked by a flourish of trumpets announcing to the world the greatness of his work. This was, after all, the mark of a true simple man who chose to live quietly without the fanfare that accompanied great achievements like his.

In the year 1924, Lamber met his Creator at the age of 44. All who loved him wept. All who knew his efforts cried. Lamberto entered the world with nothing with him like all of us. But because he cared so much for others, his memory will live on.

Don Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol gave us a legacy that is hard to forget. As a Judge and veritable paragon of a good father to his children, he gave us the best for our future and for the generations to come.

Donna Lola Lamber, you gave us a reason to be proud of being a part of your immortal seed as a heroic man, a seed that has continuously grown, flourished, and borne the marks of a noble and dignified human being.

Don Lola Lamber, in all ways and by all means, you can surely be proud up there that what you have intended to accomplish is now a reality.

Thank you Lord. Thank you for giving us God-fearing and loving grandparents --- Lola Lamber and Lola Sofing.

And so grandly we, the Herederos of the late Don Lamberto and Doña Sofia say:

HAIL! HAIL! HAIL TO OUR BELOVED
GRANDPARENTS!
MAY THEIR GOOD NAME LIVE ON!

by
Tessy Tirol Rojo-Corpus

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